

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GERRAN L. SAMUEL,
CDC #K-87526,

Plaintiff,

STEVEN RITTER; R.I. KIM;
Dr. HUNT; ROBERT HERNANDEZ;
JAMES TILTON; DAVID SMITH,

Defendants.

Civil No. 07-0495 WQH (LSP)

ORDER:

**(1) DISMISSING CASE WITHOUT
PREJUDICE FOR FAILING TO PAY
FILING FEES OR MOVE TO
PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*
PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a)
AND 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)**

AND

**(2) DENYING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF COUNSEL PURSUANT
TO 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1)**

[Doc. No. 2]

Plaintiff, an inmate currently incarcerated at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (“RJD”) in San Diego, California, and proceeding pro se, has filed a civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff claims that RJD officials have denied him adequate medical care in violation of the Eighth Amendment. (*See Compl. ¶¶ 13-23.*) Plaintiff requests declarative and injunctive relief as well as compensatory and punitive damages. (*Id.* at 4-5.)

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1 **I. Failure to Pay Filing Fee or Request IFP Status**

2 Effective April 9, 2006, any party instituting a civil action, suit or proceeding in a district
 3 court of the United States, other than a writ of habeas corpus, must pay a filing fee of \$350. *See*
 4 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). An action may proceed despite a party's failure to pay only if the party is
 5 granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* ("IFP") pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). *See*
 6 *Rodriguez v. Cook*, 169 F.3d 1176, 1177 (9th Cir. 1999). Plaintiff has not paid the \$350 filing
 7 fee required to maintain this civil action, nor has he submitted a motion to proceed IFP pursuant
 8 to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a).

9 **II. Motion for Appointment of Counsel**

10 Plaintiff also requests the appointment of counsel to assist him in prosecuting this civil
 11 action. The Constitution provides no right to appointment of counsel in a civil case, however,
 12 unless the plaintiff is indigent and may lose his physical liberty if he loses the litigation. *Lassiter*
 13 *v. Dept. of Social Services*, 452 U.S. 18, 25 (1981). Nonetheless, under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1),
 14 district courts are granted discretion to appoint counsel for indigent persons. This discretion may
 15 be exercised only under "exceptional circumstances." *Terrell v. Brewer*, 935 F.2d 1015, 1017
 16 (9th Cir. 1991). "A finding of exceptional circumstances requires an evaluation of both the
 17 'likelihood of success on the merits and the ability of the plaintiff to articulate his claims pro se
 18 in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.' Neither of these issues is dispositive and
 19 both must be viewed together before reaching a decision." *Id.* (quoting *Wilborn v. Escalderon*,
 20 789 F.2d 1328, 1331 (9th Cir. 1986)).

21 Here, the Court must deny Plaintiff's request for two reasons. First, Plaintiff has failed
 22 to file a Motion to Proceed IFP, along with a certified copy of his prison trust account activity
 23 for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of the Complaint and an affidavit
 24 sufficient to show he is indigent. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) & (b). Second, a preliminary review
 25 of Plaintiff's Complaint shows that while he claims to have been classified as developmentally
 26 disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act, he has been able to submit a pleading which
 27 adequately articulates a factual and constitutional basis for his inadequate medical treatment
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1 claims with the assistance of RJD's Library Technical Assistant. *See* Compl. at 6; *Terrell*, 935
2 F.2d at 1017.

3 For these reasons, the Court denies Plaintiff's request without prejudice, as neither the
4 interests of justice nor exceptional circumstances warrant appointment of counsel at this time.
5 *LaMere v. Risley*, 827 F.2d 622, 626 (9th Cir. 1987); *Terrell*, 935 F.2d at 1017.

6 **III. Conclusion and Order**

7 For the reasons set forth above, the Court hereby:

8 (1) **DENIES** Plaintiff's Motion for Appointment of Counsel pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
9 § 1915(e)(1) [Doc. No. 2] without prejudice;

10 (2) **DISMISSES** this action sua sponte without prejudice for failing to pay the \$350
11 filing fee, or to file a Motion to Proceed IFP pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914(a) and 1915(a); and

12 (3) **GRANTS** Plaintiff forty-five (45) days leave from the date this Order is stamped
13 "Filed" to: (a) prepay the entire \$350 civil filing fee in full; **or** (b) complete and file the attached
14 "Motion and Declaration in Support of Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*" which includes
15 a certified copy of his trust account statement for the 6-month period preceding the filing of his
16 Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) and S.D. CAL. CIVLR 3.2(b).

17 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

18 (4) the Clerk of the Court shall mail the Court's approved form "Motion and
19 Declaration in Support of Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*," to Plaintiff along with a copy
20 of this Order. If Plaintiff fails to either prepay the \$350 civil filing fee or complete and submit
21 the Motion to Proceed IFP provided to him within forty-five (45) days, this action shall remain
22 dismissed without prejudice and without further Order of the Court.

23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24 DATED: April 12, 2007

25 
26 **WILLIAM Q. HAYES**
27 United States District Judge
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